

SAVE BASQUE CULTURE in LOS ANGELES !!

I have always wondered about the history of Basque people in Los Angeles since I moved here 9 years ago. Basque people originally immigrated to Los Angeles during the gold rush era. Los Angeles became the center of the Basque community in California in the 1840s and remained its largest settlement through the late 1800s. By 1886, about 2,000 Basques lived in Los Angeles, and the city's downtown area had a distinct Basque district, complete with Basque boardinghouses and handball courts. Many southern California place names are of Basque origin, but little is left of Basque culture in Los Angeles.

Taix restaurant is one of the last pieces of Basque history in Los Angeles. In 1912 Manus Taix, Sr., built a hotel called the Champ d'Or in downtown LA. Manus Taix, Jr., opened the Restaurant within the hotel in 1927. The restaurant served chicken dinners for 50 cents at long family style tables. From its humble beginnings in the heart of Downtown LA's Frenchtown in 1927, to its present-day Echo Park location since 1964 on Sunset Boulevard, this essential neighborhood gathering spot has served amazing home-style French Basque cuisine to Angelenos of all walks of life. Their 321 lounge is a favorite destination where locals and visitors alike congregate to drink, watch baseball, celebrate family events, and listen to comedy and live music. This place is very much a community center for the neighborhood, which shares all the traditional values of Basque culture that is family, community, eating, drinking, and having a great time!

There is a looming threat that this last piece of Basque culture may be replaced by a modern complex, but there is a small movement to save it. **On 12/18/2020, the TAIX restaurant has been recommended to become a Historic Cultural Monument based on its cultural significance in the community**

Please help me keep our Basque culture in Los Angeles by sending letters of support to:

- Lambert.giessinger@lacity.org
- melissa.jones@lacity.org
- ken.bernstein@lacity.org
- councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org
- craig.bullock@lacity.org

And copy (bcc: perpetua33@gmail.com and aimee.goyhenetche@gmail.com)

Also you can join their Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsoftaix/>



(left) Taix in 1927 and (right) Taix's current location since 1964 on Sunset Boulevard